

World Is Asked To Give Aid In Tracing Meteors

BY HOWARD W. BEAKESLEE
Science Editor
(Associated Press Feature Service)
CAMBRIDGE, Mass., (AP) The "Meteor Fisherman" of Harvard astronomical observatory, Dr. Willard J. Fisher, asks cooperation of newspapers in solving a mystery of the Leonid meteors.

There are vast swarms of meteors that for a thousand years have appeared about three times a century, every 33 years sometimes producing dazzling displays. They are due again in November 1932 or '33; in fact a few should be seen this year on the nights of November 13 and 14.

But there is a mystery. The Leonids mostly failed to show up 20 years ago when last due. Astronomers suspect the gravitational attraction of the planet Jupiter was to blame then.

They think that in almost forgotten corners all over the civilized world, there exist written records that would go far to assist their predictions about the Leonids; that might help to show the world whether it is going to be worth while to sit up all night on a couple of chill November evenings about three years hence.

Dr. Fisher asks the press of the United States, and of the world, to broadcast the information about the records so that they may be out of hiding and given to astronomers. His faith that news publication will bring results is founded on his experience in receiving hundreds of letters of information about meteors in response to his notices occasionally given to newspapers in the past. His use of such notices gave him the sobriquet of "Meteor Fisherman."

Written descriptions of the Leonid displays in past centuries are believed to exist in many places, particularly in ship logs in Chinese, Indian and perhaps Egyptian literature, in the "Relations" of the Jesuit missionaries of Canada, and in military reports from French possessions to the home government, reports of all sorts from Spanish America, Brazil and the Philippines, in church authorities and to the governments in Madrid and Lisbon, records of merchants, and Mayan astronomy.

Parachute That Steers Tested By Army Fliers

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—A parachute by which a jumper may guide himself to a safe landing in the prospect for army aviators. Experiments with the new chute, which is triangular instead of round, are the standard parachute now in use, have been going on at Wright field here for more than a year in charge of Maj. E. L. Hoffman, its designer. It is expected to be adopted for army use if the tests are completed to the satisfaction of army officials.

Two corners of the triangular material are rounded, while the third is squared off straight across. This latter corner has no struts and when the parachute is in use it forms a vent to release air and propel the chute horizontally at a speed of three or four miles an hour.

By manipulation of the shroud lines a jumper may turn the parachute and control direction. Oscillation, or the swinging of the jumper's body, usual with the ordinary parachute, is cut to a minimum with the Hoffman design. Shock, due to the opening of the parachute with a heavy load, is minimized by an automatic vent in the apex.

The parachute is made of the same material and has the same area as a standard army parachute.

The operation of the pilot chute which pulls the mainfall from the bag, has been made automatic, eliminating the springs used in regulation equipment.

Meet the Vegetable Twins



All Katherine Jones needs is a twin sister to complete this picture—she is holding in her arms a rare collection of vegetables, each being a twin in its class. First there are the twin egg plants, then the twin cabbages, cucumbers, corn, tomatoes, melons and the big twins at the bottom are pumpkins. They were on display at the 29th Missouri State Fair at Sedalia, Mo., recently.

Dynasty Of Mrs. Potter Palmer Again May Rule Midwest Society

CHICAGO, (AP)—The dynasty established in the 1850's by Mrs. Potter Palmer, whose edicts were law for nearly four decades, may be ruling midwest society again before many years.

The new social czar, if such she should prove, would be a granddaughter of the no-waiter fabulous social leader. She is Miss Bertha Palmer, a debutante of last season. Until 1918, when the elder Mrs. Palmer died, the better-known brownstone mansion which dominated Lake Shore Drive was the citadel of prairie society and an institution there was the goal of every social climber.

Just to be seen at one of Mrs. Palmer's affairs established social position and once all except two members of a smart club deserted their own tea when she hosted cards on the same day.

Her daughter-in-law, the present Mrs. Potter Palmer, declined the social scepter and the throne was established in another castle a few blocks down the drive. Since her return from Switzerland several years ago Mrs. Edith Rockefeller McCormick has been the recognized leader, although reported not to be fond of the post.

When Bertha Palmer made her debut the host in the old mansion, her patriotic air and striking likeness to her grandmother were noted. Then, too, she has been tutored by a governess, who, while modern enough, had the



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Study Develops Aid For Battle With Diabetes

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Raw starches, in the form of uncooked vegetables, are foreseen as a possible substitute for insulin in the treatment of mild diabetes. After two years of research, Dr. S. M. Rosenthal, pharmacologist of the Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. public health service, has found that raw starches may be eaten without an appreciable rise in blood sugar.

The effect of insulin, which is injected, is to keep the quantity of sugar from rising in a patient's blood after a meal. Further tests are being carried out to determine whether raw vegetables taken as a part of the meal, will not be as effective as insulin.

Raw starches, fed both to normal and diabetic patients in the form of uncooked carrots, turnips, onions, tomatoes, radishes, and some nuts, were found to prevent the rise in blood sugar.

Research is progressing to determine whether the use of insulin can be avoided in cases where it has been injected once or twice a day. Promising results have rewarded the work, said Dr. Rosenthal, but no definite conclusion has been reached.

Dr. Rosenthal's discovery came as a by-product of a study of digestion. He mentioned that the raw starches will not act as a cure, no more than insulin, but will be valuable in the treatment.

PLANE PASSES CHEYENNE
CHEYENNE, Wyo., Oct. 23 (AP)—The Russian plane, Land of the Soviets, passed over Cheyenne at an altitude of 2,000 feet at 1:20 p. m. today, and headed southwest apparently for North Platte, Neb.

All this is necessary, they explain, because Tarkio has an intermediate flying field on the Kansas City-Omaha air mail route.

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